

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 201516 TOSEC 100104

FOL REPEAT OF LISBON 4815 TO SECSTATE INFO DAR ES SALAAM
KINSHASA LUANDA LUSAKA PRETORIA USUN AUG 22

QTE:
S E C R E T LISBON 4815

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO
SUBJ: AID FOR ANGOLAN REFUGEEEE

REFS: STATE 197494 (NOTAL), LISBON 4799

SUMMARY: ON AUGUST 22 PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES MADE FORMAL
REQUEST FOR USG ASSISTANCE IN AIRLIFTING ANGOLAN REFUGEES
TO PORTUGAL. SAID SOME 140,000 CANNOT BE HANDLED BY PRESENT
GOP CAPACITY. DESIGNATED HIS CHIEF OF CABINET TO WORK
WITH US. REQUEST DEPARTMENT INTIATE APPROPRIATE ACTION.
WE WILL OBTAIN MORE DETAILS FROM THIS END. END SUMMARY.

1. AT MEETING TODAY, AUGUST 22, WITH PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES
HE RAISED ANGOLA WITH ME. HE REFERRED BRIEFLY TO N GOP
POLICY WHICH FONMIN RUIVO HAD DESCRIBED TO ME EARLIER TODAY
(LISBON 4799) I ASSUME HE DID THIS TO EMPHASIZE THAT RUIVO
WAS SPEAKING NOT FOR A GOVERNMENT ON ITS LAST LEGS, BUT FOR
THE PRESIDENT AS WELL.

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2. COSTA GOMES SAID THAT A TOTAL OF 330,000 REFUGEES WANT TO
LEAVE ANGOLA. HE WAS CERTAIN THAT IF THE POLICY RUIVO HAD
OUTLINED TO ME WORKED AND PEACE WAS RESTORED IN ANGOLA MOST
OF THESE REFUGEES WOULD RETURN. IN SPITE OF GOP'S BEST

EFFORTS THE DEMAND FOR TRANSPORTATION WAS EXCEEDING GOP'S CAPACITY. HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A FORMAL REQUEST FOR AMERICAN HELP. IF I HAD NO OBJECTION HE WOULD SEND ME A LETTER TO THAT EFFECT.

3. I TOLD COSTA GOMES WE WERE PREPARED TO ASSIST BY WHATEVER MEANS MIGHT BE MOST EFFICIENT IN BRINGING REFUGEES FROM ANGOLA TO PORTUGAL. WE WOULD PREFER FOR OBVIOUS REASONS TO PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT, BUT IF NECESSARY WE WOULD HELP UNILATERALLY. WE MIGHT ALSO BE PREPARED TO HELP WITH HUMANITARIAN AID AFTER THE REFUGEES ARRIVED (FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES), BUT THIS DEPENDED ON THE NATURE OF THE GOP PROGRAM. SO FAR I HAD HEARD VERY LITTLE ABOUT ANY GOP PROGRAM. IF COSTA GOMES WAS INTERESTED IN LATTER ASSISTANCE HE MIGHT WISH TO SEND ME ANOTHER LETTER.

4. COSTA GOMES APPRECIATED OUR DESIRE TO INTERNATIONALIZE THE UNDERTAKING, BUT NOTED THAT AIRLIFT WOULD ONLY BE EFFECTIVE IF THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATED. ENGLAND AND FRANCE HAD OFFERED SOME HELP BUT THAT WAS ONLY SYMBOLIC. SUBSTANTIAL CAPACITY WOULD BE NEEDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FROM THE U.S.

5. AT THAT POINT HIS CHIEF OF CABINET, FERREIRA DA CUNHA, WHOM HE LATER DESIGNATED TO WORK WITH US ON THE AIRLIFT, ENTERED WITH ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO CANNOT BE HANDLED BY THE GOP'S PRESENT CAPACITY. THIS AMOUNTED TO 80,000 FROM LUANDA, TO LEAVE BETWEEN 25TH OF AUGUST AND THE 15TH OF OCTOBER. THEY WOULD DEPART FOR LISBON FROM THE MILITARY TERMINAL IN LUANDA. IN ADDITION 60,000 PEOPLE NEEDED TO BE MOVED FROM NOVA LISBON DURING THE SAME PERIOD OF TIME. THEY WOULD LEAVE FOR LISBON FROM THE NOVA LISBON AIRPORT.

6. REQUEST DEPARTMENT INITIATE EFFORTS TO GET AIRLIFT UNDERWAY. WE WILL GET IN TOUCH THROUGH FERREIRA DA CUNHA WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO OBTAIN MORE DETAILS. PLEASE LET US
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KNOW WHAT ADDITIONAL SPECIFICS ARE REQUIRED.
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